

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 221433Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2234

S E C R E T ATHENS 464

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJ: HIGHLIGHTS OF INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH
PRIME MINISTER

1. DURING SMALL LUNCHEON WITH PRIME MINISTER AT
RESIDENCE, JAN 20, PRIMARILY INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN
COMMUNICATIONS, ANDROUTSOPOULOS REITERATED GREEK
DEDICATION TO NATO AND CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH
U.S. ON SECURITY MATTERS. I TOOK THE OCCASION TO
COMPLIMENT GOG ON POSITION FOREIGN MINISTER TETENES
HAD TAKEN DURING MY MEETING WITH HIM JAN 14 TO
DISCUSS SOUDA BAY AIRFIELD FACILITIES FOR SIXTH FLEET.

2. IN REPLY TO MY QUERY, PRIMIN SAID HE FULLY AWARE
ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES FACING THE COUNTRY, AND HE SAID
HE HAD ASKED ONE OF UNDER SECRETARIES TO GO ON TV TO
EXPLAIN SITUATION TO GREEK PEOPLE. (MY OWN VIEW IS
THAT THIS COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE SINCE GREEK PEOPLE
REALLY NEED TO HEAR DIRECTELY FROM PM, BECAUSE OF
INCREASINGLY GROWING IMPRESSION OF HIS NOT REALLY BEING
IN CHARGE.)

3. ANDROUTSOPOULOS SEEMED OPTIMISTIC REGARDING RECENT OIL
STRIKE IN NOYTH BUT REALIZED MORE TIME WOULD BE NEEDED
TO EVALUATE COMMERCIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF FIND.

4. PM MADE POINT OF STRESSING HIS HUMBLE BACKGROUND AND
SECRET

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HIS PRIDE IN FACT THAT NO MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY HAD EVER
REQUESTED HIM TO USE HIS INFLUENCE FOR THEIR PERSONAL
GAIN. HE SEEMED RELAXED AND TO BE ENJOYING HIS ASSIGNMENT.
I FOUND HIM VERY FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES AND

PROUD OF HIS KNOWLEDGE OF AND FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE OF
THE UNITED STATES AND AMERICAN CULTURE. THERE IS NO
QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT HE BELIEVES IN THE CLOSEST
RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IN ALL FIELDS.
TASCA

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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